

**State Legislative Status Report  
2007-2008 Regular Session  
August 7, 2008**

Note: Information below is reflective of that available as of 08/06/2008.

*Italic text* in the summaries indicates an addition and  
~~strikeout~~ indicates a deletion to the bill since the last Board meeting.

**ASSEMBLY BILLS**

**AB 1** (Laird) Health care coverage.

Version: Amended 09/07/2007

Sponsor: 100% Campaign; People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO)

Status: 09/12/2007-Held at ASSEMBLY DESK.

Note: AB 1 is identical to SB 32 (Steinberg).

The bill would:

- Expand eligibility for Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program (HFP) to cover children in families with household income up to 300% FPL from the current limit of 250% FPL.
- Create the Healthy Families Buy-In Program that would be administered by the MRMIB; the bill would make unsubsidized HFP coverage available to children whose household income exceeds 300% of the federal poverty level and who meet other specified criteria.
- Delete specified citizenship and immigration status requirements for Medi-Cal and HFP and would require the MRMIB to implement a process permitting applicants to self-certify income and income deductions by January 1, 2008.
- Require the MRMIB and the Department of Health Care Services to take actions to improve and coordinate the application and enrollment process for Medi-Cal and the HFP and develop a process to transition the enrollment of children from local children's health initiatives into Medi-Cal and HFP.
- Establish the HFP to Medi-Cal Presumptive Eligibility Program, the Medi-Cal to HFP Presumptive Eligibility Program, the Medi-Cal Presumptive Eligibility Program and the HFP Presumptive Eligibility Program.
- Deem children who have a California Children's Services (CCS) eligible medical condition and who are enrolled in the HFP or the HFP Buy-In Program to be financially eligible for CCS program benefits.

**\*AB 2** (Dymally) Health care coverage.

Version: Amended 07/14/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/04/2008-Senate FLOOR third reading.

Note: MRMIB support.

For summary, see separate handout.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

**\*AB 16** (Hernandez) Human papillomavirus vaccination.

Version: Amended 05/21/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/07/2008-Set for Assembly concurrence FLOOR vote

The previous version of this bill concerned students' immunizations. This bill now changes the authority for making referrals for annual cervical cancer screening to a licensed health care practitioner. Current law gives authority to "the patient's physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner or certified nurse midwife." The bill also requires that individual and group health policies which cover cervical cancer treatment or surgery, issued on or after January 1, 2009, also cover a vaccination for human papillomavirus.

**\*AB 368** (Carter) Hearing aids.

Version: Introduced 02/14/2007

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/05/2008-Senate FLOOR second reading.

This bill would require health care service plans and health insurers to offer or provide coverage up to \$1,000 for hearing aids to all enrollees, subscribers, and the insured less than 18 years of age. The bill would provide that the requirement would not apply to certain types of insurance.

**\*AB 1150** (Lieu) Health care coverage: underwriting practices.

Version: Amended 01/16/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 07/22/2008-SIGNED by the Governor and chaptered.

This bill would prohibit health plans and insurers from basing employee or contractor compensation on performance goals or quotas for recommending the rescission, cancellation, or limitation of coverage or the resulting cost savings to the health plan or insurer.

**\*AB 1554** (Jones) Health care coverage: rate approval.

Version: Amended 06/18/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 06/26/2008-Senate HEALTH.

This bill would require approval by the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) or the California Department of Insurance (CDI) of an increase in the amount of the premium, co-payment, coinsurance obligation, deductible, and other charges under individual and group policies issued by health plan or health insurers. This would not include a Medicare supplement contract or policy or health plan contracts issued through a state program including Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program. It would create the 7-member California Health Care Rate Advisory Board (CHCRAB) and would require the DMHC and CDI to solicit comments from CHCRAB when adopting regulations related to this bill. It would also establish criteria for the DMHC and CDI to use when reviewing and approving rates paid by health plans and insurers for medical and non-medical expenses.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

**\*AB 1945** (De La Torre) Health care coverage.

Version: Amended 07/02/2008

Sponsor: California Medical Association

Status: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Senate APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would require health plans and insurers to obtain prior approval of the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) Director and the California Department of Insurance (CDI) Commissioner respectively before rescinding any health coverage. It would require the DMHC Director and CDI Commissioner to *jointly establish a process for reviewing health plans' and insurers' requests to rescind an enrollee's coverage. It would allow DMHC or CDI to approve a rescission only if the health plan or insurer demonstrates that the enrollee "made a willful and material misrepresentation about his or her medical history in the application process."* ~~consult together and contract with one or more independent review organizations by January 1, 2010 to review rescissions, and require the regulators to ensure that the persons and organizations performing reviews do not have specified conflicts of interest with health plans or insurers.~~ The bill would also permit each regulator to assess other administrative penalties and suspend or revoke a plan's license or insurer's business certificate if they rescind coverage without prior DMHC or CDI approval. *It would require DMHC and CDI to assess a \$50,000 administrative penalty on a health plan or insurer when a request for rescission "does not have a substantial probability of receiving final approval."* It would also require DMHC and CDI to establish a *pool of approved questions for use on individual coverage applications by health plans and insurers that standard application for individual coverage and require health plans and insurers to use this application if they elect to sell individual coverage.*

**\*\*AB 2146** (Feuer) Health care providers: billing.

Last Amend: 07/02/2008

Status: 07/02/2008-Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Senate APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and MRMIB to define "hospital-acquired conditions" consistent with the CMS definition and would prohibit all health care providers participating in public health programs from charging patients or third-party payers for these hospital-acquired conditions. It would further require DHCS and MRMIB to develop uniform policies and practices governing payment by state public health programs for these conditions and to annually evaluate and amend them. It would preclude providers from billing patients for treatment of hospital-acquired conditions for which plans or insurers have denied payment in conformity with these DHCS and MRMIB nonpayment policies and practices. The bill would preclude providers from charging patients for care or services "for which payment is denied" by MRMIB or DHCS programs. It would also preclude providers from billing uninsured patients for hospital-acquired conditions. It would prohibit contracts between providers and plans or insurers from including policies and practices that prohibit payment for hospital-acquired conditions.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

**\*AB 2549** (Hayashi) Health care coverage: notification.

Version: Amended 06/19/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Senate APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would prohibit health plans and health insurers from rescinding an individual health insurance policy for any reason after ~~six~~ 18 months from the date of its issuance. ~~It would also permit a policyholder or insured who believes that his or her individual health insurance policy was wrongfully rescinded to request a review of the rescission by submitting a complaint to the Insurance Commissioner or the Department of Managed Health Care.~~

**\*\*AB 2569** (De Leon) Health care coverage: rescission.

Last Amend: 07/02/2008

Sponsor: Author

Location: 08/05/2008-Senate FLOOR second reading.

This bill would require all health plans and insurers to allow persons covered under rescinded individual coverage to transfer, without medical underwriting, to any other individual policy offered by that plan or insurer, and to inform enrollees of this new right, at minimum when rescinding an enrollee's coverage. It would require plans and insurers to notify enrollees 30 days before changing their premium rate, and require plans and insurers to post a ranking of individual coverage products on their website and notify purchasers of this information or make it available upon request. The bill would also require persons assisting applicants with their health insurance application to attest in writing that the application is accurate and complete, that he or she explained to the applicant the risk of providing inaccurate information and that the applicant understood the application.

**\*AB 2580** (Arambula) Health: immunizations.

Version: Amended 04/01/2008

Sponsor: California Immunization Coalition,

Status: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Senate APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would remove existing exceptions to immunization requirements for admittance into elementary or secondary schools, child care centers, day nurseries, nursery schools, family day care homes or development centers. Current law allows disease-specific exemptions based on age. It would also require, on or after July 1, 2009, that pupils be fully vaccinated against pertussis before admission to 7th grade in these institutions. It would also add the American Academy of Family Physicians to the list of those organizations whose recommendations the Department of Public Health may consider when determining other diseases for which pupils must be vaccinated.

**\*AB 2589** (Solorio) Health care coverage: public agencies.

Version: Amended 06/30/2008

Sponsor: Santa Ana School District

Status: 08/05/2008-Senate FLOOR second reading.

This bill would require health plans or health insurers to report annually to governing boards of public agencies with whom they contract the name and address of any agent, broker, or

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

individual to whom they paid a commission or fee related to the public entity's contract or policy or involved in transactions with the public agency and the amount paid.

**\*AB 2967** (Lieber) Health care cost and quality transparency.

Version: Amended 08/04/2008

Sponsor: Service Employees International Union

Status: 08/07/2008-Set for hearing in Senate APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would sunset the California Health Policy and Data Advisory Commission (CHPDAC) on July 1, 2009, and create in its place the California Health Care Cost and Quality Transparency Committee (HCCQTC) in the Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA). The HCCQTC would develop a plan to improve medical data collection and reporting practices. The bill would also require the CHHSA Secretary and the Committee to implement strategies to improve health care quality and meet related requirements. *The bill would require costs for implementing this bill be paid from assessing and collecting fees from data sources and data users in accordance with a fee schedule approved by the CHHSA Secretary. The fee schedule would be evaluated by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and by the Legislature as part of the annual budget act process.*

**\*AJR 54** (Laird) State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Version: Amended 05/28/2008

Sponsor: 100% Campaign

Location: 07/08/2008-PASSED and chaptered.

Note: MRMIB support.

This resolution would urge the President and the Congress of the United States to rescind the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services directive of August 17, 2007 that restricts states' authority to cover children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

## SENATE BILLS

**SB 32** (Steinberg) Health care coverage: children.

Version: Amended 09/07/2007

Sponsor: 100% Campaign; People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO)

Status: 09/11/2007-Assembly FLOOR INACTIVE FILE.

Note: SB 32 is identical to AB 1 (Laird).

The bill would:

- Expand eligibility for Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program (HFP) to cover children in families with household income up to 300% FPL from the current limit of 250% FPL.
- Create the Healthy Families Buy-In Program that would be administered by the MRMIB; the bill would make unsubsidized HFP coverage available to children whose household income exceeds 300% of the federal poverty level and who meet other specified criteria.
- Delete specified citizenship and immigration status requirements for Medi-Cal and HFP and would require the MRMIB to implement a process permitting applicants to self-certify income and income deductions by January 1, 2008.
- Require the MRMIB and the Department of Health Care Services to take actions to improve and coordinate the application and enrollment process for Medi-Cal and the HFP and develop a process to transition the enrollment of children from local children's health initiatives into Medi-Cal and HFP.
- Establish the HFP to Medi-Cal Presumptive Eligibility Program, the Medi-Cal to HFP Presumptive Eligibility Program, the Medi-Cal Presumptive Eligibility Program and the HFP Presumptive Eligibility Program.
- Deem children who have a California Children's Services (CCS) eligible medical condition and who are enrolled in the HFP or the HFP Buy-In Program to be financially eligible for CCS program benefits.

**\*SB 697** (Yee) Health care coverage: provider charges.

Version: Amended 07/14/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/06/2008-Set for hearing in Senate HEALTH.

This bill would explicitly prohibit any health care provider who is given documentation that a person is enrolled in the Healthy Families Program *or the Access for Infants and Mothers program* from "balance billing" these subscribers for health care services.

**\*SB 775** (Ridley-Thomas) Childhood lead poisoning.

Version: Amended 07/01/2008

Sponsor: Physicians For Social Responsibility, National Health Law Program

Status: 08/07/08-On suspense and set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would require the Department of Public Health to make information on lead poisoning available to all health care providers that administer perinatal or prenatal care services as specified, and would require providers to explain this information to pregnant women at the earliest opportunity. It would require DPH ~~and the State Public Health Officer~~ to report to the legislature and the public on the status *and effectiveness* of the state's lead poisoning prevention

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

programs and lead screening activities, *the number of children screened and those determined to have elevated blood levels*. It would also require the establishment of benchmarks for Healthy Families, Medi-Cal and the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program. ~~This bill would require laboratories that test for lead poisoning to report findings to the Department of Public Health.~~ It would require licensed health care providers to conduct or refer for a blood lead test when providing services to low-income children at specified ages who are enrolled in publicly funded programs *and to document the lead testing on the child's immunization record*. It would also require DHCS and MRMIB to make available to DPH "all necessary information" related to the blood lead testing of participants in public health care programs.

**\*SB 840** (Kuehl) Single-payer health care coverage.

Version: Amended 07/10/2007

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would establish the California Healthcare System to be administered by the newly created California Healthcare Agency, under the control of a Healthcare Commissioner. The bill would make all California residents eligible for specified health care benefits under the California Healthcare System, which would, on a single-payer basis, negotiate for or set fees for health care services provided through the system and pay claims for those services. The bill would provide that a resident of the state with a household income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level would be eligible for the type of benefits provided under the Medi-Cal program. The bill would create several new offices to establish policy on medical issues and various other matters relating to the health care system.

**\*SB 973** (Simitian) California Health Benefits Service Program.

Version: Amended 07/01/2008

Sponsor: American Federation of State County Municipal Employees

Status: 08/07/08-On suspense and set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill is essentially the same as SB 1622, which failed to meet the deadline for passage from the Senate Appropriations Committee. This bill would create the California Health Benefits Service Program (CHBSP) within the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). The CHBSP would identify barriers and incentives to establishing joint-ventures between local initiatives, local health plans, county organized health systems (COHS) and county health authorities with the County Medical Services Program (CMSP) and would assist local health care entities to support development of the joint-ventures. The bill would also create a stakeholder committee with six members appointed by the DHCS Director, representing CSMP, health care providers, employers, and COHS, which would report findings to the Legislature by ~~January 1, 2009~~ *January 15, 2010* and annually thereafter. The bill would require that all joint ventures be licensed by the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC). The DMHC would be allowed flexibility in issuing new, modified or combined licenses to local initiatives or COHS in order to contract with the MRMIB or to provide coverage in individual or group markets. The bill would require private funding be received by the state prior to implementing nearly all CHBSP activities.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

**\*SB 981** (Perata) Health care coverage: non-contracting hospital-based physician claims.  
Version: Amended 08/04/2008  
Sponsor: Author  
Status: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would require health plans to pay a non-contracting emergency room physician the lesser of the physician's full charge or the newly created "interim payment standard" as defined. The bill would create various payment rates and standards for non-contracted emergency room physicians and would require the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to adjust the interim payment standard every 12 months. It would create the Independent Dispute Resolution Process (IDRP) to resolve payment disputes between health plans and providers and would authorized it to assess penalties on health plans that show a pattern of "willfully violating" the provisions of this bill or that "engage in practice intended to abuse" the IDRP. It would also require that noncontracting emergency physicians seeking resolution from the IDRP to first use the health care plan's dispute resolution process. *This bill would authorize DMHC to seek civil penalties and assess administrative penalties against non-contracting emergency room physicians, health plans or their contracting risk-bearing organizations for showing a pattern of willfully violating or a practice intended to abuse the IDRP.* This bill would become effective on July 1, 2009 and sunset on December 31, 2013.

**\*\*SB 1379** (Ducheny) Fines and penalties: physician loan repayment.  
Version: Introduced 02/21/2008  
Sponsor: California Medical Association  
Status: 08/07/08-Set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS suspense file.

This bill repeals existing law that requires Knox-Keene Act fines paid by health plans to be paid into the State Managed Care Fund. It would require that these fines instead be paid into the Medically Underserved Account for Physicians within the Health Professions Education Fund. This fund provides limited repayment of education loans for physicians who practice in medically underserved areas, defined in part by populations at least 50 percent of whom are uninsured or are enrollees in HFP or Medi-Cal.

**\*SB 1440** (Kuehl) Health care coverage.  
Version: Amended 07/01/2008  
Sponsor: California Medical Association  
Status: 08/07/08-On suspense and set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS

Current law does not limit the amount of administrative expenses that health plans or health insurers may pay with money derived from sources other than subscribers. This bill would require full-service health care service plans or health insurers to spend at least 85% of the dues, fees, premiums, and other periodic payments received by the health plan or health insurer on health care benefits (referred to as the "minimum loss ratio" or MLR) beginning January 1, 2009. The bill would define "health care benefits" for the purpose of determining administrative expenses. For the purpose of determining the cost/benefits ratio, the bill would permit a health plan or health insurer to average its total *after-tax* costs across all its California health care plan contracts or health insurer policies *or those of its affiliated California plans or insurers, with specified exceptions allowed.* The bill would require these health plans and insurers, as of June 1, 2009, and then annually, to report to their regulator that they meet these requirements. *It would*

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*  
\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*



*additionally require them to report, as of January 1, 2009, and then annually, to their regulator the MLR of each individual and group health plan product or health insurance policy in California. The regulators would be required to make the MLR information public and to jointly adopt implementation regulations to require uniform reporting by plans and insurers. It would also allow regulators to fine or otherwise penalize health plans and insurers for failure to comply.*

**\*SB 1522** (Steinberg) Health care coverage: coverage choice categories.

Version: Amended 06/11/2008

Sponsor: Health Access

Status: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS.

This bill would require the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) and the California Department of Insurance (CDI) by April 1, 2009 to jointly adopt regulations to develop systems to categorize all full-service (non-specialized) health plan contracts and health insurance policies offered and sold to individuals (non-group coverage) into 5 coverage benchmark categories. It would require each full-service plan and insurer offering individual coverage to offer at least one contract or policy in each coverage category and meet various standards for price, benefits, type of product (HMO, PPO, EPO, POS, indemnity model, etc.). The bill would require that full-service plans and insurers be given flexibility in establishing provider networks for the new products as long as they meet access-to-care standards and other specified requirements. The bill includes other related requirements for full-service plans and insurers regarding pricing of products and their regulation. It would also require that all individual coverage sold on or after January 1, 2009 contain a maximum limit on out-of-pocket costs, including, but not limited to, copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles, for covered benefits. It would require DMHC and CDI to annually report on contracts and policies offered in each category and enrollment by category and, every three years, to review and consider revising the standard benefit packages to meet the needs of consumers. It would require DMHC and CDI to develop a notice about the range of cost and benefits to facilitate comparison shopping for individual coverage, and require health plans and insurers to provide the notice to consumers when marketing products or sending information about purchasing or renewing coverage. It would require the University of California Health Benefits Review Program (UCHBRP) to report on specific data about individual coverage issues 3 months prior to the development of the new benefit levels by DMHC and CDI, and allows DMHC and CDI to request additional UCHBRP reports prior to their annual and triennial reviews of benefits.

**\*SB 1525** (Kuehl) Health care service plans: onsite medical survey.

Version: Amended 04/24/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS.

Existing law requires the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) to survey health plans' procedures for obtaining health services, regulating utilization, and assuring quality of care. This bill would add a requirement that the DMHC also review health plan procedures for making determinations of medical necessity. It would also require plans and insurers to report to DMHC or the California Department of Insurance (CDI), and, upon request, to enrollees and providers the rates of initial delays, denials, or modifications of health care services or payments, and the specific rates of delay, denial or modification due to services' being medically unnecessary or uncovered benefits.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

**\*SB 1553** (Lowenthal) Health care service plans.

Version: Amended 07/14/2008

Sponsor: California Society of Clinical Social Work, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

Status: 08/05/08-Assembly FLOOR third reading.

*This bill would prohibit health plans regulated by Department of Managed Health Care from determining an approval, modification or denial of a health care provider's request for service based on whether a patient's admission was voluntary or involuntary or a patient's method of transportation to a health facility. This would apply to determinations made before, during or after the service was provided. It would also add a requirement that all health plans, except those primarily serving Medi-Cal or Healthy Families subscribers, include information about accessing mental health services on their websites. ~~This bill would add access and continuity of care requirements for mental health plans and plans offering mental health services. The bill would also increase involvement of mental health practitioners in consulting with and resolving disputed requests for authorization, modification or denial of services by health plans and contracting medical providers offering professional mental health services. It would improve public access to information about grievance processes at health plans and the Department of Managed Health Care and would make it easier for the public to obtain information from health plans' about their processes for authorizing, modifying or denying services.~~*

**\*SB 1634** (Steinberg) Health care coverage: cleft palates.

Version: Amended 04/23/2008

Sponsor: California Society of Plastic Surgeons

Status: 08/07/2008-On suspense and set for hearing in Assembly APPROPRIATIONS

This bill would require health plans and health insurers, on or before January 1, 2009, to cover medically necessary orthodontic services for cleft palate procedures upon prior authorization and completion of the utilization review processes.

**\*\*SBX1 27** (Aanestad) MRMIP: health care service plans: individual health care coverage.

Version: Introduced 08/04/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/04/2008-Senate HEALTH.

See attached handout.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*

**Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board  
Bills No Longer Being Tracked**

Note: Reflects information available as of 08/06/2008.

**ACA 14** (Strickland) State-funded benefits.

Version: Introduced 02/22/2008

Sponsor: Author

Status: 08/05/2008-Failed passage in Assembly JUDICIARY.

This bill failed passage in the Assembly Judiciary Committee. This bill would place an initiative on the ballot which, if passed by voters, would amend the State Constitution to require that specific proof of U.S. citizenship or one's right to lawfully reside in the United States be provided as a condition of eligibility by persons 18 years of age or older applying for a non-emergency state-funded public benefit, with some exceptions. Allowable proof would be defined as a California driver's license or State-issued identification card that meets applicable document and issuance requirements of federal law, a U.S. passport, or a permanent resident alien card issued by the U.S. government.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*



## PRESS RELEASE

07/22/2008 GAAS:567:08 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Governor Schwarzenegger Signs Health Care Protection Bill

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today signed [AB 1150](#) by Assemblymember Ted Lieu (D-Torrance) which bans health insurance companies from rewarding their employees for canceling or limiting a patient's health insurance. While the Governor signed AB 1150 because of the urgent need to protect consumers from unfair health care rescissions, he continues to believe that health care reform must be comprehensive. To that end, he has proposed legislation that would be the building blocks of comprehensive health care reform and is working with the legislature on a joint solution that will protect consumers, control costs and promote prevention.

"Until we achieve comprehensive health care reform, stopping unfair health care rescissions is an urgently needed consumer protection," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "This terrible practice further illustrates the erosion of our health care system and the need for comprehensive health care reform. Today we are standing up for consumers by putting an end to a deplorable practice, and I will continue working with my partners in the legislature to stop unfair health care rescissions once and for all."

The Governor's goal of comprehensive health care reform would make health care rescissions a problem of the past. The Governor's [AB x1 1](#), the Health Care Security and Reduction Act, would have required that all Californians take responsibility for their health coverage while guaranteeing that no Californian is turned away from buying insurance based on their age or medical history.

To increase consumer protections, the Governor's legislative proposal on rescission includes stronger upfront requirements for health plans before they issue coverage to individuals, protects patients from being rescinded if their doctor never told them about a medical condition that affects their ability to obtain coverage and provides for an independent third-party review when a health plan seeks to rescind or cancel an enrollee's coverage.

As part of the Governor's commitment to covering Californians and stopping unfair health care rescissions, his [Department of Managed Health Care](#) (DMHC) has reached [groundbreaking agreements](#) with all of California's major health plans over the last few months where they've agreed to reinstate coverage to California consumers whose health care coverage had been rescinded. Last week, DMHC [fined](#) Anthem Blue Cross \$10 million, which is the largest fine ever reported to be collected against an individual health insurer in the nation.

\* *New bill status since last Board meeting*

\*\* *New bill since last Board meeting*